

Senate Resolution 1345

By: Senators Cowsert of the 46th and Hudgens of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the proposal for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the U.S. livestock industry is among the most economically viable in the world,
4 largely as a result of the excellent health of our livestock; and

5 WHEREAS, with increasing global trade, U.S. agriculture is increasingly vulnerable to the
6 introduction of diseases that could severely disrupt our economic viability; and

7 WHEREAS, a national research facility has been proposed to protect our food supply against
8 foreign diseases and animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans that might be
9 introduced intentionally or by accident; and

10 WHEREAS, it is essential that our nation have a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to
11 biological and agricultural defense to replace the aging Plum Island facility; and

12 WHEREAS, the proposed \$450 million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)
13 would provide as many as 1,500 construction jobs, employ between 250 and 350 permanent
14 full-time research scientists and support workers, have an estimated economic impact in
15 Georgia of up to \$1.5 billion over the next 20 years, and serve as a magnet for clean,
16 knowledge based jobs needed in northeast Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, NBAF's responsibilities would include research into animal diseases foreign
18 to the United States and the transmission of zoonotic diseases between animals and humans,
19 as well as development of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics and the safeguarding of the
20 American food supply; and

21 WHEREAS, a site in Athens on the campus of the University of Georgia has been selected
22 as one of the five finalists for the possible location of NBAF; and

1 WHEREAS, the agriculture and infectious disease research capabilities at UGA; its
2 collaborations with Georgia's other research universities, federal agencies, and industries;
3 and the availability of a biosciences workforce in Athens identify the area as an ideal
4 location; and

5 WHEREAS, local and state government, business leaders, and community leaders have
6 expressed their support for the location of NBAF in this area; and

7 WHEREAS, the placement of NBAF in this state would cement Georgia's role as a
8 recognized world leader in the highly competitive field.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
10 recognize the importance of the proposal for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and
11 its location in Georgia.